crimes reported in trains over Indian Railways during the year 2006 as compared to the previous year 2005.

During the year 2006, in all 7,505 cases of crime were reported in trains as against 7,980 such cases reported during the previous year *i.e.* 2005.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Poverty, unemployment and loopholes in criminal justice system are the main socio-economic factors responsible for crime whether it is in the trains or in the hinter land.

(d) To prevent such offences Special Squads have been constituted in some Zonal Railways with women ticket checking staff (wherever available), women staff of Railway Protection Force and/or Government Railway Police. The ladies compartments in affected sections are also being escorted by armed police personnel during night. A total number of 63,282 male persons found travelling in ladies compartments were apprehended and prosecuted by Railway Protection Force under the Railways Act during the year 2006.

Upgradation of stations

2085. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to improving the facilities at the railway stations, the Centre has embarked on a plan to modernize and upgrade the stations to world class; and

(b) if so, the details in the this regard, with projected cost, source of funding and targeted schedule for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far 19 stations have been selected for developing them as World Class Station. These developments are planned on Public Private Partnership basis.

Doubling of Meerut-Tapsi rail track

2086. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for doubling of Meerut-Tapsi railway track;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the detailed project report has since been prepared and survey has taken place;

(d) how much allocation is being proposed to be made for the doubling of track;

(e) whether any cut-of-date has been fixed for completion of the work; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (f) An updating survey for doubling of Meerut-Tapsi (Saharanpur) section was completed during 2004-05. As per survey report, the cost of doubling of 113.62 kms. long line has been assessed at Rs. 238.38 crore with a rate of return as (-) 7.83%. Due to constraint of resources and unremunerative nature of the project it was not considered feasible to take up this work. However, Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) *via* Khurja-Meerut-Saharanpur-Ludhiana will provide additional capacity on this route.

Train services to Pakistan

†2087. SHRI VEER PAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian railways is running train services to various places of Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether any accident took place during train journeys due to lack of security; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to check such accidents and the steps being proposed by Government to ensure that such accidents do not recur in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two coaches of Train No. 4001 Delhi-Attari Special caught fire on 18.02.2007 at 23.50 hrs. between Diwana-Panipat railway station. The

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.